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Electric Cooperative, Inc. One of the Minnkota Power Systems

P.O. BOX 108 • 406 NORTH MINNESOTA STREET • WARREN, MINNESOTA 56762 • (218) 745-4711 • (800) 552-7366

July 29, 1994

The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

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AUG 01 1994

OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER RACHELLE B. CHONG

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AUG 3 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Dear Commissioner Chong:

As you work to prepare your report to Congress on the Status of Competition to Cable, CS Docket No. 94-98, I'm ~~compelled~~ ^{happy} to provide you with a look at rural America. Northwestern Minnesota is sparsely inhabited and as a result untouched by cable in most areas. Direct Broadcast Satellite (DBS) is the opportunity for our farmers and rural homeowners to become equal with their city brethren in telecommunications.

In most areas of rural Minnesota, we waited 40 years to receive central station electricity. Until DBS, we had to wait 25 years to receive cable TV programming that was affordable. With the Time Warner/Viacom "exclusive" programming agreements with the United States Satellite Broadcasting Company, (USSB) we are locked out from providing our rural cooperative members with such popular cable programming as HBO, Showtime and Nickeloden.

The big dish satellite (C-band) was not a viable alternative for our rural people. The cost of equipment was out of reach for most of our folks and the programming costs were as much as 800% more than cable. The Cable Act of 1992 brought the cost of programming more in line with cable rates. As we understand a part of that act prevented "exclusive" contracts for programming. Us rural folks need to have access on an equal basis for the cable programming our members desire.

We have the technology to bring the vast rural areas of this great Country into the 21st century with telecommunications. Our telephone cooperatives are doing a good job of keeping up to date. Why in this age of technology is there and "exclusive" contract for only certain cable programming and only that supplied on DBS by the United States Satellite Broadcasting Company (USSB)? Our folks have a difficult time understanding that.

Your attention to our concern would be appreciated.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Charles P. Riesen
General Manager

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SHERMAN BLOCK, SHERIFF

County of Los Angeles
Sheriff's Department Headquarters

4700 Ramona Boulevard
Monterey Park, California 91754-2169



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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

July 28, 1994

The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Barrett:

RE: Billed Party Preference; CC Docket Number 92-77

As Sheriff of Los Angeles County, California, and a Jail Administrator, I am requesting that the Federal Communications Commission exclude local jails from the proposed "Billed Party Preference" (B.P.P.) system for O+ Inter LATA regulations.

B.P.P. would assuredly eliminate the O+ commissions we currently receive and thereby eliminate the funding used to provide mandated inmate programs. The California Legislature has created Inmate Welfare Funds to provide jail administrators with the resources for inmate programs, services and facilities. Telephone commissions are the primary, and in some cases, the sole source of revenue for Inmate Welfare Funds. Many of these programs and services are now mandated by law and the courts, primarily the Federal courts. Elimination of telephone commission revenues would force local government to look at already strapped budgets to fund these mandates.

The services and programs provided by the Inmate Welfare Fund include Adult Education, GED and high school certification, basic literacy training, job training, substance abuse and family counseling, chaplains, religious services and others. Even basics like supplying indigent inmates with personal hygiene supplies and letter writing material are provided for by these funds. These programs would cease or have to be funded elsewhere.

B.P.P. would also eliminate our ability, working with the single long distance contract provider to prevent fraud. We would lose our ability to monitor phone calls during investigations and our ability to quickly block calls to protect victims and witnesses from intimidating or harassing phone calls.

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A Tradition of Service

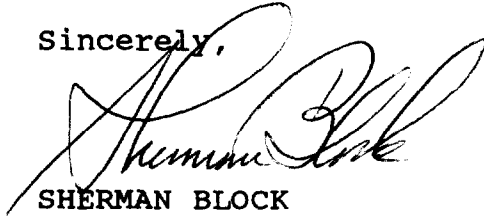
The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett

-2-

July 28, 1994

I strongly urge you to exclude local jails from "Billed Party Preference" regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sherman Block".

SHERMAN BLOCK
SHERIFF

PAYPHONE
S Y S T E M S

(916) 243-2117

4554-C CATERPILLAR ROAD, P.O. BOX 994685, REDDING, CA 96099

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

July 27, 1994

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 92-77 Opposition to Billed Party Preference

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We have analyzed the security and administration needs at correctional facilities that we serve with our inmate telephone systems. Both we and our client facilities feel that we cannot allow inmates to have open access to the telecommunications network and the freedom to use any carrier they please. BPP will take away our right to coordinate inmate calls through a carrier we know and trust. Instead, inmate calls will be routed to a number of different carriers, none of whom will have any obligation to us, and few that will be trained to handle inmate calls.

We have also found it necessary to install equipment that is specifically designed for inmate calls. This equipment helps prevent fraud, abusive calls, and other criminal activity over the telephone network. BPP could easily eliminate the revenue stream that makes these specialized phones (and consequently a service business we have worked hard to build) possible.

Furthermore, we are sensitive to the rates inmate families pay for calls. It is the policy of this firm to adhere to industry standard AT&T rates. If other firms or correctional facilities are charging unreasonable rates, a proper and more effective action would be to adopt rate ceilings on inmate calls and then let Sheriffs enforce these rate ceilings through their contracts. Indeed we believe the overwhelming majority of Sheriffs are committed to requiring rates that are fair and reasonable.

In short, BPP would take away our ability to employ important security and administrative measures that we have found to be necessary in serving our customers, ultimately reducing inmate phone services our client facilities have come to rely upon. We urge you to not adopt regulations that interfere with the provision of our telecommunications and security services.

Respectfully submitted,

PAYPHONE SYSTEMS



Ronald McPherson
General Partner

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cc: The Honorable James H. Quello
The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong

✓ The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett
The Honorable Susan Ness

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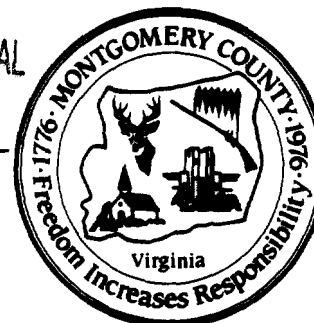
MONTGOMERY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

KENNARD L. PHIPPS, SHERIFF

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY



4 SOUTH FRANKLIN ST.
P.O. DRAWER 149
CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073
PHONE (703) 382-6906

The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 92-77 Opposition to Billed Party Preference

August 1, 1994

Dear Commissioner Barrett:

As the Sheriff of Montgomery County, Virginia and Administrator of the County Jail, I am vigorously opposed to any form of regulation of contract communications operators or long distance carriers that would, in any way, affect or jeopardize the present security and service of our inmate telephone system. I am specifically referring to the application of Billed Party Preference for 0+ InterLATA Calls, or BPP, at inmate facilities.

Over the past six years our average inmate population has increased by over 50% while during that same period our Jail Staff has seen a force reduction of nearly 20% due to funding cuts. Currently, our jail houses a daily average of just over one hundred inmates. We have been successfully using the services and equipment of a private contract communications carrier/operator for more than three years. This automated telephone system, with its attendant control services, permit our staff to do their job more effectively while not having to worry about what is happening in this area of inmate needs.

Today, we enjoy a relatively harassment-free and low fraud incidence operation that has satisfied several needs outside of the communications arena because of the services and equipment provided by our contractor. Among these are the compensation derived from commissions of receivables from the collect calls billed to the inmates' called parties. These funds are deposited entirely into an inmate welfare account that has provided many educational, spiritual, and recreational enhancements to our inmate activities programs.

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The application of BPP will most likely remove any controls that we now have over various fraud elements and harassment techniques that inmates use against witnesses, judges, jurors, businesses, and employees. It is impossible to conceive how a potential witness or complainant could think (or remember) to protect themselves from threatening phone calls by an incarcerated inmate when the responsibility for that protection would fall directly on that person and their "designated" phone carrier. It takes only one threatening call to intimidate a witness or complainant. By using "PIN" numbers and approved number calling services and other controls, as provided by a dedicated inmate communications company, this type of problem is virtually eliminated.

To make the concept of BPP technologically equal to our present system will cost huge sums of money that will ultimately be burdened by the public. This would NOT benefit that public. If it is the intent of the FCC to protect the public from potential price-gouging by a few unscrupulous operators, then I would be in favor of a price ceiling system, directed at State level and administered by the Facilities through contract management, be imposed for this purpose. Currently, our phone bill receivables are split with our contractor in the form of nominal commissions. This billing is in line local BOC pricing and the fiscal advantage ultimately flows back to the inmates. Conversely, BPP will allow the carriers to probably maintain the same local BOC pricing levels, but with the ultimate fiscal advantage going only to those operators.

In summary: BPP does not present a viable alternative to the administrative and security controls that we have for effective criminal justice management in our jail. If this application were passed, it would cause us to lose control of telephone fraud activities originating from the jail and the harassment of witnesses, complainants, or victims. It would reduce or eliminate much-needed revenue that is used to operate State or Federally mandated inmate welfare and social reform programs. Programs that are NOT funded by those same mandates.

We urge you to not adopt this regulation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. L. Phipps", written in a cursive style.

K. L. Phipps
Sheriff



JOE G. JONES, Sheriff

P.O. Box 57
Camden, NC 27921

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July 23, 1994

Telephone: (919) 338-4176

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

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AUG - 3 1994
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Re: CC Docket No. 92-77 Opposition to Billed Party Preference

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We are opposed to the application of Billed Party Preference (BPP) at inmate facilities.

We have analyzed the security and administration needs at our facility and have found it to be necessary to route inmate calls from our facility to a single carrier that is equipped to handle inmate calls and with whom we have a contractual relationship. We cannot allow inmates to have open access to the telecommunications network and the freedom to use any carrier they please. BPP will take away our right to coordinate inmate calls through a carrier we know and trust. Instead, inmate calls will be routed to a number of different carriers, none of whom will have any obligation to us, and few that will be trained to handle inmate calls.

We have also found it necessary to install phone equipment that is specifically designed for inmate calls. This equipment helps prevent fraud, abusive calls, and other criminal activity over the telephone network. Given the constant budgetary constraints that we are under, we cannot afford to provide this equipment without the help of inmate phone service providers. BPP would also eliminate the revenue stream that finances our inmate phones. If BPP is applied to inmate facilities, there will be no way for us to finance these phones, nor will there be inmate phone service providers to assist us. Without inmate phones, the morale of our inmates will be devastated. The resulting increase in tension will make it more difficult for our staff to manage inmates.

Furthermore, we are sensitive to the rates inmate families pay for calls. We fully appreciate the FCC's concern if some Sheriffs do not take responsibility for protecting inmate families from abusive rates. We do not agree with the FCC that the solution for this lack of responsibility is BPP. The proper and more effective action would be to adopt rate ceilings on inmate calls and then let Sheriffs enforce these rate ceilings through their contracts. Indeed we believe the overwhelming majority of Sheriffs are committed to requiring rates that are fair and reasonable.

In short, BPP would take away our ability to employ important security and administrative measures that we have found to be necessary at our facility, ultimately reducing inmate phone availability, which in turn decreases the efficiency of our staff. We urge you to not adopt regulations that interfere with our administrative and security decisions -- decisions that are clearly within our discretion and which we have a public responsibility to make.

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Respectfully submitted,

Joe G. Jones
Name/Title

Sheriff (Camden Co. N.C.)
27921

cc: The Honorable James H. Quello

Albemarle District Jail
Name of Correctional Facility

The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong

The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett

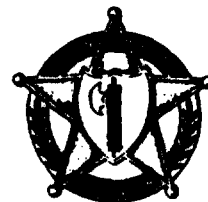
320 S. Hughes Blvd Elizabeth City, NC
Address

The Honorable Susan Ness

27909



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LENOIR COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

W.E. BILLY SMITH
SHERIFF

P.O. Box 3289
Kinston, NC 28502

July 26, 1994

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

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AUG - 3 1994
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Re: CC Docket No. 92-77 Opposition to Billed Party Preference

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I would like to take this time to explain to you our opposition to the Billed Party Preference (BPP) at inmate facilities.

We, at the Lenoir County Detention Facility, have found that having a single carrier with a contractual service is best for our type facility.

Advantages include immediate call blocking to prevent inmates from calling and harassing witnesses, spouses, or their victims; immediate cutoff switches which are used to cutoff phone service for disciplinary reasons within the facility; a built in fraud protection feature; and the phone service helps to maintain discipline. These are just a few of the many advantages.

The disadvantage would be that we would not enjoy the protection and service we are now getting. Without these advantages, we would be forced to have the telephones taken out. After all, these are privileges, not rights. Without the telephones, the inmate's morale would drop considerably and probably result in problems for the facility. Before our current service was available, we did not have any phones in our facility for inmate use. And, without the protections we now have, we would be forced to take them out.

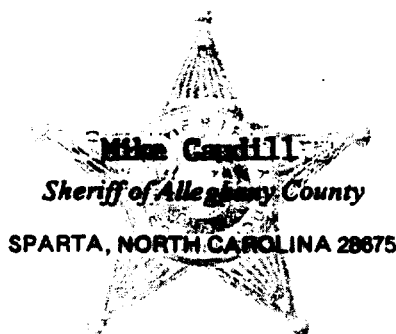
In summary, both the inmates and the facility benefit from the current service. If we have to resort to the BPP, the inmates and their families would be penalized more than the facility. Therefore, we urge you not to adopt the aforementioned regulations.

Respectfully,

Major Lester Gosnell
Lenoir County Detention Facility

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Post Office
Box 53



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AUG 3 1994

Telephone:
(919) 372-4455

July 25, 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Billed Party Preference; CC Docket No. 92-77

Dear Chairman Hundt,

We are opposed to the application of Billed Party Preference (BPP) at inmate facilities.

We know the security needs at our facility and realize the necessity of a single carrier phone service provider. We feel strongly that inmates should not have open access to the telecommunications network or the freedom to use any carrier they please. If BPP is enacted, we no longer will have the right to coordinate inmate calls through a carrier we know and trust. As a result, there will be no call and fraud controls and our effectiveness in law enforcement and our security will certainly be threatened.

Phone equipment specifically designed for inmate calls is an absolute must in our estimation. This equipment helps to protect the public by preventing abusive calls, fraud and other criminal activity over the telephone network. Furthermore, we truly could not afford to provide this equipment without the help of inmate phone service providers. The revenue sharing arrangements that we have with our inmate phone service provider has proved to be an effective means of financing not only the phone system itself but also programs that are beneficial to the inmates. It is for these financial and security reasons that we strongly oppose any federal intervention in our ability to manage and control inmates' calling.

In summary, BPP would undermine our ability to enforce certain security measures that we feel are imperative at our facility, will increase expenses and will reduce the services available

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The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Page 2
July 25, 1994

to inmates. We implore you not to adopt regulations that will interfere with the security and operation of our correctional facility and further reduce our ability to provide for the public's safety.

Respectfully Submitted,

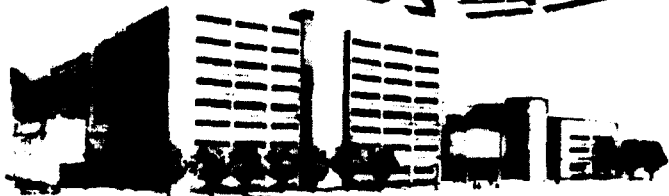


Mike Caudill, Sheriff
Alleghany County Jail
P.O. Box 53
Sparta, N.C. 28675

MC/dgm

cc: The Honorable James H. Quello
The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong
The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett
The Honorable Susan Ness

COUNTY OF LAKE



Office of the Sheriff

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David A. Dunlap, Sheriff

AUG 3 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

July 25, 1994

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 92-77 Opposition to Billed Party Preference

Your Honor,

We are opposed to the application of Billed Party Preference (BPP) at inmate facilities.

We have found it necessary to install phone equipment that is specifically designed for inmate calls. This equipment helps to prevent fraud, abusive calls and other criminal activity over the telephone network. Despite these safeguards, inmates have still found ways to circumvent such safeguards and abuse the inmate phone system through fraud and abusive calls to citizens whose rights they have violated through their criminal activity. BPP would not only eliminate such safeguards presently enjoyed by detention facilities but would also eliminate needed revenue to give inmates access to quality phone service. Costs incurred by detention facilities in housing inmates are growing by astronomical leaps and tax payers are being burdened by rising costs. Inmate phone revenue through inmate phone service providers is one of the few avenues available for tax payers to recover the cost of incarcerating individuals who have chosen to violate the constitutional rights of their fellow citizens.

We realize the burden of rates which inmate families pay for calls. Proper and effective action by the FCC would be to adopt rate ceilings on inmate calls and let the Sheriff's enforce these rate ceilings through contracts with phone companies.

In short, to protect the safety and security of the citizens of the United States, and to reduce the tax burden of law abiding citizens incurred from incarcerating those who choose to violate the laws of this country, we believe that Billed Party Preference must not be adopted.

Respectfully Yours,

Capt. Frank J. Leonbruno
Corrections Administrator
Lake County Adult Detention Facility
Lake County, Ohio

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August 1, 1994

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

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AUG - 3 1994

Re: CC Docket No. 92-77 Opposition to Billed Party Preference

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We are opposed to the application of Billed Party Preference (BPP) at inmate facilities.

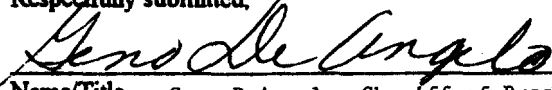
We have analyzed the security and administration needs at our facility and have found it to be necessary to route inmate calls from our facility to a single carrier that is equipped to handle inmate calls and with whom we have a contractual relationship. We cannot allow inmates to have open access to the telecommunications network and the freedom to use any carrier they please. BPP will take away our right to coordinate inmate calls through a carrier we know and trust. Instead, inmate calls will be routed to a number of different carriers, none of whom will have any obligation to us, and few that will be trained to handle inmate calls.

We have also found it necessary to install phone equipment that is specifically designed for inmate calls. This equipment helps prevent fraud, abusive calls, and other criminal activity over the telephone network. Given the constant budgetary constraints that we are under, we cannot afford to provide this equipment without the help of inmate phone service providers. BPP would also eliminate the revenue stream that finances our inmate phones. If BPP is applied to inmate facilities, there will be no way for us to finance these phones, nor will there be inmate phone service providers to assist us. Without inmate phones, the morale of our inmates will be devastated. The resulting increase in tension will make it more difficult for our staff to manage inmates.

Furthermore, we are sensitive to the rates inmate families pay for calls. We fully appreciate the FCC's concern if some Sheriffs do not take responsibility for protecting inmate families from abusive rates. We do not agree with the FCC that the solution for this lack of responsibility is BPP. The proper and more effective action would be to adopt rate ceilings on inmate calls and then let Sheriffs enforce these rate ceilings through their contracts. Indeed we believe the overwhelming majority of Sheriffs are committed to requiring rates that are fair and reasonable.

In short, BPP would take away our ability to employ important security and administrative measures that we have found to be necessary at our facility, ultimately reducing inmate phone availability, which in turn decreases the efficiency of our staff. We urge you to not adopt regulations that interfere with our administrative and security decisions -- decisions that are clearly within our discretion and which we have a public responsibility to make.

Respectfully submitted,



Name/Title Geno DeAngelo, Sheriff of Broome County

Broome County Sheriff's Office

Name of Correctional Facility

P.O.Box 2047
Binghamton, N.Y. 13902

Address

CC: The Honorable James H. Quello
The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong
The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett
The Honorable Susan Ness

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OFFICE of the SHERIFF
WYANDOTTE COUNTY
710 NORTH 7TH STREET
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101
PHONE: (913) 573-2865
Fax: (913) 573-2972

BILL E. DILLON
SHERIFF

MICHAEL B. McDONALD
DETENTION ADMINISTRATOR

SENATOR ROBERT DOLE
UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

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AUG - 3 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY
July 25, 1994

Dear Senator Dole,

It has come to my attention that the FCC has proposed certain regulations that will be detrimental to all County Jails and State prisons. I am referring to "Billed Party Preference For 0+ InterLata Calls" cc Docket 92-77. If this is adopted jails will lose their ability to control inmate fraud by phone, harassment of victims and witnesses by inmates, ability to "block" inmates from calling certain numbers and several other capabilities. In addition this proposed regulation will close off a source of income that my County relies upon to help fund our jail.

I am asking you to assist all Kansas Jails by working to keep this ill advised regulation from coming to pass. This will pass yet another unfunded mandate upon State and local government and will make the jobs of those charged with holding inmates that much more difficult.

Yours truly,

Michael B. McDonald
Detention Administrator

cc Vice-President Al Gore
Senator Nancy L. Kassebaum
Congresswoman Jan Meyers
Sheriff Bill E. Dillon
R. Wayne Lampson

FCC

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ELKHART POLICE DEPARTMENT
316-697-2151

Sheriff Loren W. Youngers

ADMINISTRATOR
LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER
P. O. BOX 801
ELKHART, KANSAS 67950



MORTON COUNTY SHERIFF DEPT.
316-697-4313

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AUG 3 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The Honorable Reed F. Hunt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

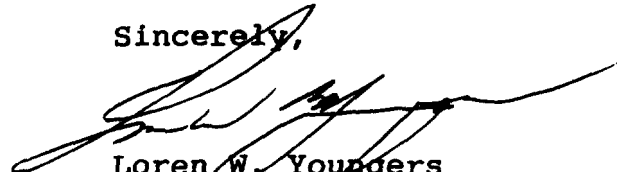
RE: Billed Party Preference;
CC Docket No. 92-77

Dear Chairman:

I am the Sheriff of a relatively small County and thus a smaller jail then some. Even with this I am responsible for those who reside in that facility. The "Billed Party Preference" is going cause a great deal of problems in maintaining control of what phone calls are made from the jail. As it is now we can block any out going calls thus we are able to lend some protection to innocent victims and witnesses that could be intimidated by their aggressors. The " Billed Party Preference" will not allow this protection.

This is but one of many problems this will create. I hope you will consider all the perimeters before you make a decision on this. At least consider adding an amendment so as to make Jails and Correctional Facilities exempt from the "Billed Party Preference".

Sincerely,


Loren W. Youngers
Sheriff

cc: The Honorable James H. Quello
The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett
The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong
The Honorable Susan Ness

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August 1, 1994

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Re: CC Docket No. 92-77 Opposition to Billed Party Preference

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We are opposed to the application of Billed Party Preference (BPP) at inmate facilities.

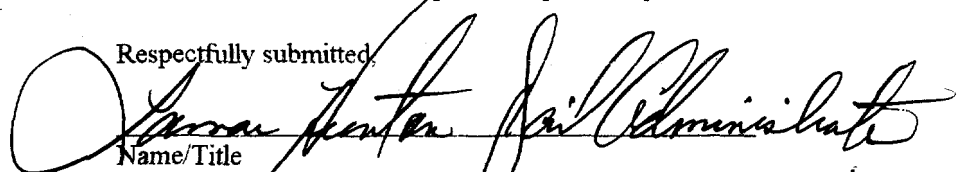
We have analyzed the security and administration needs at our facility and have found it to be necessary to route inmate calls from our facility to a single carrier that is equipped to handle inmate calls and with whom we have a contractual relationship. We cannot allow inmates to have open access to the telecommunications network and the freedom to use any carrier they please. BPP will take away our right to coordinate inmate calls through a carrier we know and trust. Instead, inmate calls will be routed to a number of different carriers, none of whom will have any obligation to us, and few that will be trained to handle inmate calls.

We have also found it necessary to install phone equipment that is specifically designed for inmate calls. This equipment helps prevent fraud, abusive calls, and other criminal activity over the telephone network. Given the constant budgetary constraints that we are under, we cannot afford to provide this equipment without the help of inmate phone service providers. BPP would also eliminate the revenue stream that finances our inmate phones. If BPP is applied to inmate facilities, there will be no way for us to finance these phones, nor will there be inmate phone service providers to assist us. Without inmate phones, the morale of our inmates will be devastated. The resulting increase in tension will make it more difficult for our staff to manage inmates.

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Respectfully submitted,


Name/Title

Paulding Co. Sheriff's Office &
Name of Correctional Facility Detention Center

2505 N. Industrial Way
Address Dallas, Ca. 30132

COPY

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August 1, 1994

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Re: CC Docket No. 92-77 Opposition to Billed Party Preference

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We are opposed to the application of Billed Party Preference (BPP) at inmate facilities.

We have analyzed the security and administration needs at our facility and have found it to be necessary to route inmate calls from our facility to a single carrier that is equipped to handle inmate calls and with whom we have a contractual relationship. We cannot allow inmates to have open access to the telecommunications network and the freedom to use any carrier they please. BPP will take away our right to coordinate inmate calls through a carrier we know and trust. Instead, inmate calls will be routed to a number of different carriers, none of whom will have any obligation to us, and few that will be trained to handle inmate calls.

We have also found it necessary to install phone equipment that is specifically designed for inmate calls. This equipment helps prevent fraud, abusive calls, and other criminal activity over the telephone network. Given the constant budgetary constraints that we are under, we cannot afford to provide this equipment without the help of inmate phone service providers. BPP would also eliminate the revenue stream that finances our inmate phones. If BPP is applied to inmate facilities, there will be no way for us to finance these phones, nor will there be inmate phone service providers to assist us. Without inmate phones, the morale of our inmates will be devastated. The resulting increase in tension will make it more difficult for our staff to manage inmates.

Furthermore, we are sensitive to the rates inmate families pay for calls. We fully appreciate the FCC's concern if some Sheriffs do not take responsibility for protecting inmate families from abusive rates. We do not agree with the FCC that the solution for this lack of responsibility is BPP. The proper and more effective action would be to adopt rate ceilings on inmate calls and then let Sheriffs enforce these rate ceilings through their contracts. Indeed we believe the overwhelming majority of Sheriffs are committed to requiring rates that are fair and reasonable.

In short, BPP would take away our ability to employ important security and administrative measures that we have found to be necessary at our facility, ultimately reducing inmate phone availability, which in turn decreases the efficiency of our staff. We urge you to not adopt regulations that interfere with our administrative and security decisions -- decisions that are clearly within our discretion and which we have a public responsibility to make.

Respectfully submitted,

D. D. Dower / Warden

Name/Title

Hall Co. Correctional Institution

Name of Correctional Facility

1685 Barber Road, Chilesville, Ga
30507

Address

cc: The Honorable James H. Quello
The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong
The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett
The Honorable Susan Ness

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OFFICE OF

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

SHERIFF
COUNTY OF KINGS

P.O. BOX 986
HANFORD, CALIF. 93232
PHONE 209/582-3211

TOM CLARK
SHERIFF-CORONER
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR

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AUG 3 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

July 22, 1994

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communication Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC docket number 92-77
Billed Party Preference (BPP)

Dear Chairman Hundt:

As the Sheriff of Kings County, California, and a jail administrator, I am requesting that the Federal Communications Commission exclude local jails from the proposed "Billed Party Preference" system for 0+interlata pay phone traffic rules.

The security of my jails is of paramount importance. Without the safeguards of my in-place telephone system, the administrations of my jail would be greatly impacted. The security provided by our current system, helps to prevent fraud, and quickly block calls to protect victims and witnesses from intimidation. Without these safeguards, we would also lose the ability to rapidly determine when, where, and to who calls were placed. This is valuable information on other criminal activities such as, escapes, or the smuggling of contraband, which also involves help from the outside. The Billed Party Preference (BPP) would take away our control of inmate calls through a carrier we know and trust. Calls will be routed through many different carriers with no obligation to jail security or administration.

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Institution of the BPP would create a vast monetary problem to the already strapped economy of Kings County. California has statutes in place to provide for programs, services, and facilities to inmates through the inmate welfare fund. The commission paid by our contracted telephone service is a primary source of revenue for the inmate welfare fund. Elimination of the 0+ commissions currently received would be devastating.

The commissions collected for the inmate welfare fund pay for services and programs, such as, adult education, GED programs, basic literacy training, English as a second language, religious programs, and many more. Even basics, such as, supplying indigent inmates with personal hygiene supplies are provided by the inmate welfare fund.

Kings County has been forced to eliminate jobs, and many services due to the economy. Programs, or services, to the inmates would cease or have to be funded by the already tight tax dollar. We simply cannot replace the dollars we would lose if our commission revenues were eliminated.

Please take these factors into consideration, and add them to the other letters from jails that will be drastically and adversely impacted by your failure to exclude them from the BPP. The consequences would be devastating to my jails and many others if we are not excluded.

Sincerely,



Tom Clark, Sheriff
Coroner, Public Administrator

cc: Honorable James H. Quello
Honorable Andrew C. Barrett
Honorable Rachelle B. Chong
Honorable Susan Ness

DUCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

EATON COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT

1025 INDEPENDENCE BLVD. • CHARLOTTE, MICHIGAN 48813 • TELEPHONE CHARLOTTE 517/543-3512
LANSING 517/372-8217

July 28, 1994

Rick Wahl
Sheriff

Patrick Hutting
Undersheriff

Joseph Jager
Chief Deputy

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

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AUG 3 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

RE: CC Docket No. 92-77 Opposition to Billed Party Preference

Dear Chairman Hundt,

We are opposed to the application of Billed Party Preference (BPP) at inmate facilities.

We have analyzed the security and administration needs at our facility and have found it to be necessary to route inmate calls from our facility to a single carrier that is equipped to handle inmate calls and with whom we have a contractual relationship. We cannot allow inmates to have open access to the telecommunications network and the freedom to use any carrier they please. BPP will take away our right to coordinate inmate calls through a carrier we know and trust. Instead, inmate calls will be routed to a number of different carriers, none of whom will have any obligation to us, and few that will be trained to handle inmate calls.

We have also found it necessary to install phone equipment that is specifically designed for inmate calls. This equipment helps prevent fraud, abusive calls, and other criminal activity over the telephone network. Given the constant budgetary constraints that we are under, we cannot afford to provide this equipment without the help of inmate phone service providers. BPP would also eliminate the revenue stream that finances our inmate phones. If BPP is applied to inmate facilities, there will be no way for us to finance these phones, nor will there be inmate phone service providers to assist us. Without inmate phones, the morale of our inmates will be devastated. The resulting increase in tension will make it more difficult for our staff to manage inmates.

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Furthermore, we are sensitive to the rates inmate families pay for calls. We fully appreciate the FCC's concern if some Sheriffs do not take responsibility for protecting inmate families from abusive rates. We do not agree with the FCC that the solution for this lack of responsibility is BPP. The proper and more effective action would be to adopt rate ceilings on inmate calls and then let Sheriffs enforce these rate ceilings through their contracts. Indeed we believe the overwhelming majority of Sheriffs are committed to requiring rates that are fair and reasonable.

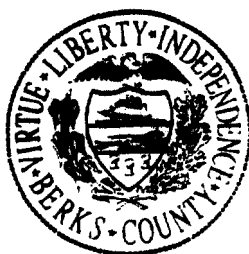
In short, BPP would take away our ability to employ important security and administrative measures that we have found to be necessary at our facility, ultimately reducing inmate phone availability, which in turn decreases the efficiency of our staff. We urge you not to adopt regulations that interfere with our administrative security and decisions -- decisions that are clearly within our discretion and which we have a public responsibility to make.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rick Wahl".

Rick Wahl

Sheriff



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Berks County Prison

R.D. 1, Box 1241, County Road, Leesport, PA 19533 • (610) 208-4800

Prison Board

Chairman: Anthony J. Carabello, Board of Commissioners
 Secretary: William J. Campbell, Controller
 Member: Mark C. Baldwin, District Attorney
 Member: John H. Kramer, Sheriff
 Member: Ernie Miller, Chairman, Board of Commissioners
 Member: Glenn B. Reber, Board of Commissioners
 Member: Forrest G. Schaeffer, President, Board of Judges

Administration

George A. Wagner, Warden
 Elliot S. Werst, Assistant Warden
 David W. Bucks, Deputy Warden, Custody
 Robert M. Nichols, Deputy Warden, Treatment
 Janine L. Kroh, Director of Administrative Services

July 27, 1994

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
 Federal Communications Commission
 1919 M Street, NW
 Washington, D.C. 20554

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AUG 3 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
 OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am opposed to the application of Billed Party Preference (BPP) at jail facilities.

The security and administrative needs of our jail make it necessary that all inmate calls be routed through a single carrier, which is equipped to handle inmate calls and who, because of a direct contractual relationship, will be capable of and interested in providing for us a system which is secure.

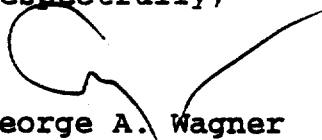
BPP will be a nightmare for the field of Corrections. Multiple carriers will have no incentive or obligation to provide for us the services upon which we depend. As a result, the specialized equipment we have come to depend upon will become unavailable or undependable during the industry's "learning curve". And, during that time, fraud, abusive calls, conspiracy, and other types of criminal activity will become prevalent.

Our institution cannot afford to purchase the hardware and software needed to administer an inmate telephone system. Faced with the possibilities for abuse, the problems associated with BPP, and the prohibitive cost of purchasing our own hardware and software systems, we may need to seriously consider removing telephone privileges from our inmates. BPP then, will be hurting inmates and causing inmate disturbances as a result of its implementation. If your concern is protecting inmates and their families from inflated rates, then rate ceilings should be adopted. Simply restricting the discretion of competent administrators, because of those who

are not, is not an effective measure. Note: All the profits from our inmate telephone system are deposited directly into the inmate welfare fund and used to directly benefit the inmates. BPP will eliminate this beneficial option for inmates.

Please, do not restrict my ability to effectively administer my institution. I ask that you give serious consideration to the negative impact BPP will have upon jails, and take steps to insure that this does not occur.

Respectfully,



George A. Wagner
Warden

GAW/all

cc: U.S. Senator Harris Wofford
U.S. Senator Arlen Specter
U.S. Representative T. Timothy Holden

August 1, 1994

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M-Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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AUG 3 1994
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Oregon

DEPARTMENT OF
CORRECTIONS

OFFICE OF
THE DIRECTOR

Re: Billed Party Preference: CC Docket No. 92-77

Dear Chairman Hundt:

The Oregon Department of Corrections is opposed to the application of Billed Party Preference (BPP) at inmate facilities.

We have contracted with service providers for our 12 institutions. We have two types of phone systems for inmate use: general telephones and legal use telephones. The general use telephones are monitored for security purposes and the legal use telephones are used for communication between inmates and their attorneys or the courts.

While the majority of inmates use the general telephones in the institutions to maintain their relationships to families and friends, there is still a significant number who try to use the telephones to commit crimes. Examples of the types of criminal activity the Department of Corrections has uncovered during monitoring of inmate calls during the last year include:

- homicide
- child abuse
- drug manufacture and trafficking
- credit card fraud using three-way calling
- cases of intimidation involving drugs

Our current contracts and system give us the capability to block calls being made to particular numbers to prevent harassing phone calls and eliminates the call from being transferred. **We must be able to continue monitoring inmate calls to provide security in the institutions for both staff and inmates.**

Revenues in a six month period in 1993 totaled approximately \$180,000 from inmate phones usage. These dollars were deposited into our Inmate Welfare Fund to benefit the general inmate population. The funds are used a variety of ways, including: capital construction and improvements projects to enhance the programs, services and activities provided to inmates. During these times of budgetary cuts, the dollars generated have become more significant than ever before. It would be impossible to continue to fund these projects without this source of revenue.

Barbara Roberts
Governor



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2575 Center Street NE
Salem, OR 97310
(503) 945-0920
FAX (503) 373-1173

Reed. E. Hundt
August 1, 1994
Page 2

BPP would eliminate our ability to employ critical security and administrative measures which are necessary safeguards at our prisons as well as effect the programs we deliver to inmates. For these reasons, I respectfully request an exemption for prison inmate telephone systems to the proposed modifications of the Federal Communications Commission rules.

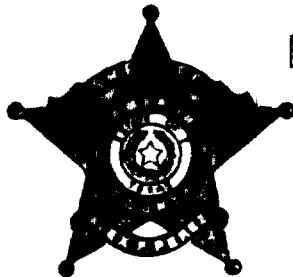
Sincerely,



Frank A. Hall
Director

CC: Commissioner James H. Quello
Commissioner Andrew C. Barrett
Commissioner Rachelle B. Chong
Commissioner Susan Ness
Senator Mark Hatfield
Senator Bob Packwood
Representative Elizabeth Furse
Representative Robert Smith
Representative Ron Wyden
Representative Peter DeFazio
Representative Mike Kopetski

ALEX F. PEREZ
CAMERON COUNTY SHERIFF



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CAMERON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
954 E. HARRISON ST.
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS 78520
544-0860

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AUG 3 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

"HELP US TO SERVE YOU BETTER"

JULY 26, 1994

THE HONORABLE REED F. HUNDT
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
1919 M. STREET N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

RE: BILLED PARTY PERFORMANCE CC DOCKET NO. 92-77

Dear Chairman Hundt;

In order to eliminate or reduce citizen complaints about inmates threatening, and making life miserable for innocent victims; we have looked at a number of possibilities and found that the best solution was to route inmate phone calls from our facility to a single carrier that is equipped to handle inmate calls and with whom we could enter into a contractual relationship. This will help us prevent fraud, abusive calls and a tremendous amount of organized criminal activity over the telephone networks.

If the inmates have open access to the telecommunication system we as Jail Administrators will loose control and criminal activity will flourish. This will and can create grounds for litigation against the Sheriff's and Counties operating the Jails. Please help us to prevent that abuse from inmates in not allowing Billed Party Preference calls to the inmates.

Billed Party Preference (BPP) will eliminate the revenue stream that finances the inmate phones in the first place. Without the revenues the phone availability to the inmates will practically come to a halt. Thereby creating chaos and all kinds of problems and legal sanctions.

We are very sensitive to the rates inmates families pay for the calls. We have just renegotiate our present inmate phone system and one of the requirements in the (RFP) Requests for Proposals was the maximum rate allowed to be charged the families.

To permit BPP will take away our ability to properly manage our facility and place the inmates in control of criminal activity through the use of the telephone. We respectfully request that you not adopt the BPP regulations that will severely interfere with our jail management policies and procedures.

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